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Redeploy Illinois Annual Report
Implementation and Impact
May 2007

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Research suggests that non-violent youth offenders are less likely to be involved in subsequent delinquent behavior if they remain in their home communities and receive appropriate services that address their underlying needs. Community-based services for juvenile offenders are generally less costly and more effective than institutional care in correctional facilities.

In 2005, Redeploy Illinois began four pilot programs. These sites were provided with financial support to deliver comprehensive services in their home communities to youth who might otherwise have been sent to the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice (IDJJ) with a goal of reducing juvenile commitments by 25%.

In the first two years of implementation, the Redeploy Illinois pilot sites, on average, reduced commitments to IDJJ by 44%, or 226 fewer youth, thereby saving the State of Illinois millions of dollars.

INTRODUCTION

In State fiscal year 2005, the financial cost to Illinois tax payers for incarcerating a juvenile offender in an Illinois correctional institution was $70,827 per year. The corresponding juvenile recidivism rate in Illinois was forty-eight percent. As this recidivism rate only counts those juveniles that return to a juvenile institution within three years of release; the number of these youth who later became involved with the adult criminal justice system is unknown.

While the Redeploy Illinois Oversight Board (RIOB) has high hopes that the new Department of Juvenile Justice will have a significant impact on the recidivism rate of incarcerated youth, the RIOB is of the belief that many youth are better served in their home counties rather than in juvenile correctional institutions. Research suggests that non-violent youth offenders are less likely to be involved in subsequent delinquent behavior if they remain in their home communities and receive appropriate services that address their underlying needs. Community-based services for juvenile offenders are generally less costly and more effective than institutional care in correctional facilities. Unfortunately, a lack of local programs and services plays a significant role in a court's decision to commit a youth to the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice (IDJJ). This coupled with the fact that a commitment to IDJJ is paid by the State and carries no cost for the committing county, has historically caused inappropriate incarceration of non-violent youth by unintentionally financially encouraging counties to give up on these youth because it is cheaper for the county to commit them rather than provide them with the services they need.

Enter Redeploy Illinois. The Redeploy Illinois pilot program gives counties financial support to provide comprehensive services in their home communities to youth who might otherwise have been sent to IDJJ. In return, the pilot sites commit to reducing annual juvenile commitments by 25%. The funds provided to the Redeploy Illinois pilot sites fill in the gaps in the local

continuum of programs and services available for these delinquent youth, allowing counties to more cost-effectively serve these youth locally and reduce their reliance on IDJJ. As a result, youth are being given every opportunity to succeed in their own communities, commitments to IDJJ have been reduced significantly, and the State is saving millions of dollars.

The following discussion presents a series of analyses of the effect of Redeploy Illinois at the local and state level.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The primary target population eligible to receive services through Redeploy Illinois is those youth facing a possible sentence to IDJJ for an offense other than Murder or a Class X Forcible Felony. Redeploy Illinois is viewed as a last resort for these youth. Each pilot site may further restrict eligibility into the program. However, they may never accept a youth into the program that is being charged with Murder or a Class X Forcible Felony.

Local jurisdictions that participate as a Redeploy Illinois pilot site are required to develop plans for community-based treatments for juvenile offenders that protect their communities, promote accountability for the harm caused their victims and communities, and equip youth with the necessary competencies to live responsibly and productively. They include in their contract a target number of youth by which they will reduce IDJJ commitments, at least 25%.

It is also important to understand that because the focus of this pilot initiative is on providing alternatives for the high-end youth, there is still a portion of the continuum that needs to be sufficiently developed and funded beyond Redeploy Illinois to address the needs of youth just beginning their path into the juvenile justice system.

There are currently four Redeploy Illinois pilot sites:

- 2nd Judicial Circuit
- Macon County
- Peoria County
- St. Clair County

Pilot Site Descriptions

The 2nd Judicial Circuit

(Comprised of 12 rural counties in southeastern Illinois: Crawford, Edwards, Franklin, Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Jefferson, Lawrence, Richland, Wabash, Wayne and White.)

The goal of the 2nd Judicial Circuit Redeploy Illinois program is to utilize individualized and evidence-based practices to address the needs of medium- and high-risk juvenile offenders. Probation officers and community service providers monitor and provide services to juveniles selected for this program. Specific needs are determined on a case-by-case basis. The following assessments are often utilized to ascertain areas of need:

- YASI (Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument);
- Psychological Assessment;
- Sex Offender Assessment;
- TRACKER Assessment; and
- Pre-sentence investigation prepared by the probation department.

While the 2nd Circuit has not established formal selection criteria to identify service providers for the initiative, there are several standards used for selection, including the provider's use of the Blueprint Evidence Based Practices programming, the service providers' ability to work with the targeted juvenile population in the geographical locations, and the ability to provide the needed services.

The five major service options supported by the 2nd Judicial Circuit's Redeploy Illinois program are:

- Aggression Replacement Training
- Functional Family Therapy
- Multi-Systemic Therapy
- Global Positioning System Monitoring
- Psychological and Psychiatric Evaluation

The expected outcome of these services, which are provided by probation department staff and community-based service providers, is an increase in public safety and the provision of pathways to positive change for youth who are involved in the juvenile justice system.

Juvenile participants of the 2nd Judicial Circuit program are required to be between the ages of 13 and 17 years old; have been adjudicated for an offense punishable by incarceration in IDJJ; have no more than one prior adjudication; and have a YASI score of Medium-High risk. Juveniles convicted of first-degree murder or a Class X forcible felony are ineligible for participation in the program.

Macon County

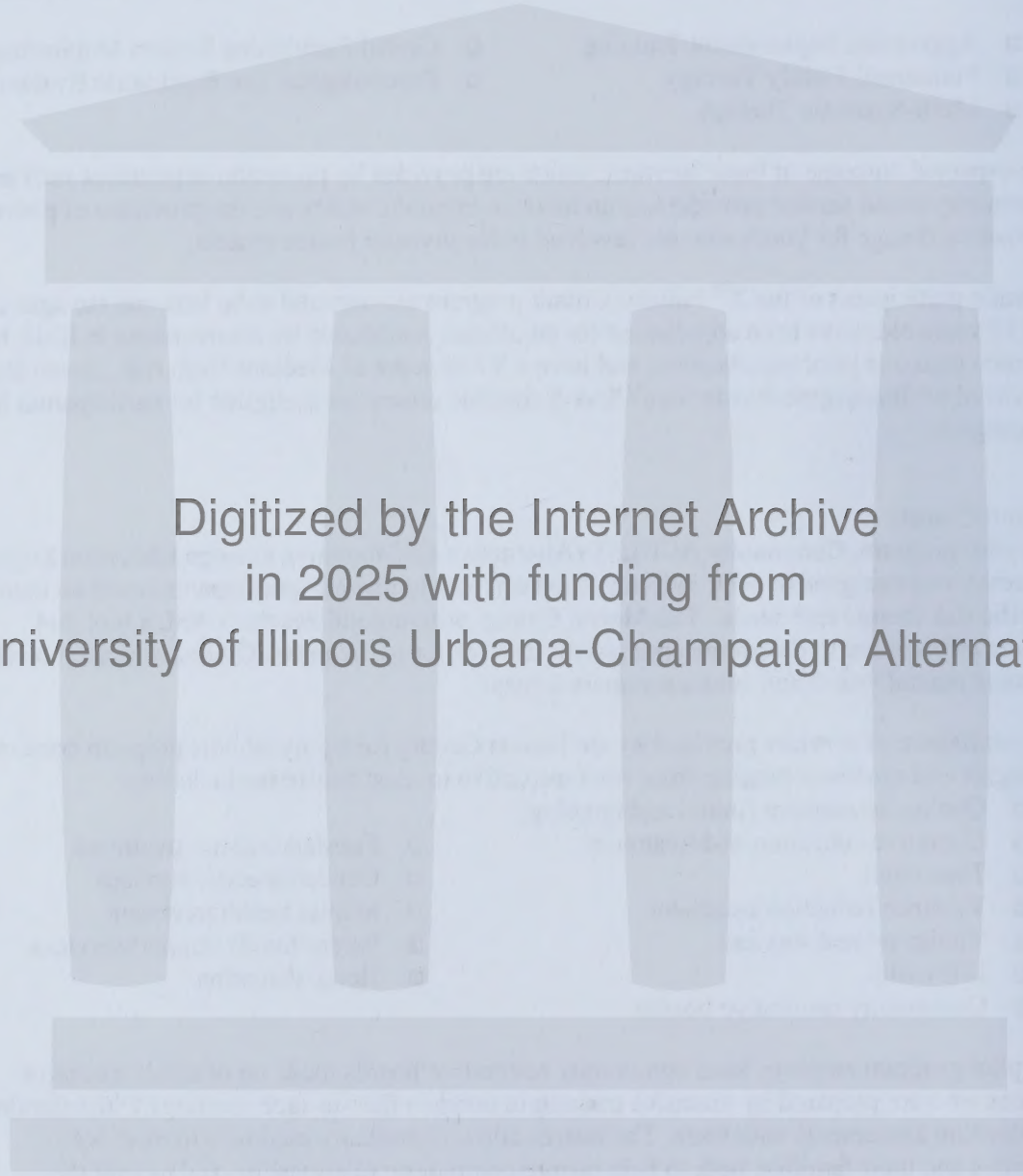
The pilot program, Community ACCESS (Alternative Collaborative Change Education Support Success), was designed to offer individualized services to juvenile participants based on their specific risk factors and needs. The Macon County program utilizes the YASI, a tool that gathers information to determine appropriate services for participants. Other assessment tools examine mental health and substance abuse issues.

The continuum of services provided by the Macon County Redeploy Illinois program consists of strategies and sanctions ranging from least restrictive to most restrictive including:

- Quality assessment (initial and ongoing)
- Cognitive education and treatment
- Teen court
- Violence reduction treatment
- Victim-related services
- Life skills
- Community restorative boards
- Substance abuse treatment
- Gender-specific services
- Mental health treatment
- Parent/family support services
- Home detention

The pilot program employs local community restorative boards made up of small groups of citizens who are prepared by intensive training to conduct face-to-face meetings with offenders and develop agreements with them. The boards allow community members to meet with juveniles and their families, both to help restore community relationships and to hold the juveniles accountable for harm caused by their actions.

Macon County participants are required to be at least 13 years old; under consideration for possible commitment to IDJJ due to their current offense; eligible for a one year or more term of probation; and convicted of a non-forcible felony. The program could not be used as an alternative to juvenile court involvement or as part of a plea agreement.



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Peoria County

The Peoria County Redeploy Illinois program is a collaborative partnership between Peoria County Court Services and Children's Home Association of Illinois (CHAIL). Redeploy Illinois participants are referred from the Juvenile Court Judge as well as identified by probation staff from their existing caseloads. In addition, participant parents must agree to the Redeploy Illinois program assignment.

Peoria County's Redeploy Illinois targets two groups of juveniles. The first group is comprised of juveniles who would have previously been sent to IDJJ for an evaluation. The second group consists of those juveniles on probation who are assessed to be at greatest risk for a full commitment to IDJJ.

Youth that have been referred into the Redeploy Illinois program in need of a court evaluation are placed in a residential setting. During a 21-day stabilization period, they receive an evaluation and assessment. They are then transitioned into the program group. Youth who need more intense mental health treatment receive therapy.

A staff member from the CHAIL conducts a thorough assessment on each youth participating in the Redeploy Illinois program to obtain the information that will assist in developing an individualized service plan for the youth and his/her family. The staff member then collaborates with Peoria County probation staff that work directly with delinquent youth and their families to provide the identified services or link them to resources within the community.

Once the referral to the program has been made and the assessment completed, program staff provide the following functions:

- A minimum of three contacts per week with the youth that consist of counseling, skill building, collateral contact, curfew checks, and/or staffings with the Probation Officer.
- Transportation for the youth to and from court hearings, meetings with Probation Officers, treatment sessions/meetings, or other related appointments/meetings.
- Linkage to community resources.
- Group counseling sessions.

In order to set goals for the youth and family, each youth receives an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) provided by CHAIL. The IFSP is based on intensive interviews, observations and research into the individual's school, mental health, social, and family history gathered from schools, hospitals, family members, and other relevant individuals.

Types of service include:

- Individual counseling
- Family counseling
- Psychological evaluations
- Drug treatment
- Aggression Replacement Training (ART)
- Service to family
- Community service/ recreation
- Collateral contacts and referrals

Another goal is to reduce the level of disproportionate minority confinement (DMC). The percentage of minority youth in Redeploy was higher than the percentage of minority youth committed to IDJJ in 2005. This suggests that Redeploy Illinois in Peoria County may have an impact on DMC.

St. Clair County

The St. Clair County Youth Coalition (SCCYC), consisting of over 100 community stakeholders and youth service providers oversees the pilot initiative. The Children's Home and Aid Society of Illinois (CHASI), a local social service agency, provide program delivery and implementation. Other agencies such as the Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House, Kids Hope United, and Cahokia Park United Methodist Church offer services. A court liaison is provided to assist youth and their families during court proceedings and to make referrals to services.

The target population is youth between 13 and 17 years of age with at least one prior delinquent offense who are currently adjudicated for an offense that is punishable by an IDJJ commitment and who are at medium or high risk for re-offending. Youth who are involved in both the juvenile justice system and the child welfare system are given priority. Court ordered referrals to the Redeploy Illinois program are from the State's Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, or Juvenile Court Judge. Families have to be willing to participate in the Redeploy program. In addition, non court-ordered referrals from probation or other agencies are allowed to benefit from the program. These youth receive services but are not officially in the Redeploy program.

All referred youth to the St. Clair Redeploy Illinois program are required to undergo a 30-day assessment period. During this period, youth are generally remanded to custody in the St. Clair County Detention Center. Each youth is matched with a CHASI caseworker within 24-hours. The caseworker completes the assessment process through an examination of participants' school, mental health, social, and family history. This information is gathered from schools, hospitals, family members, and other documentation such as YASI scores. In order to set goals for the youth and family, each youth receives a case plan provided by CHASI. After the assessment of the youth and case plan are submitted to the judge, a determination is made whether or not to accept the youth into the Redeploy Program.

To date, more than 30 different services have been made available to participants. The following represent the most commonly utilized services:

- Multi-systemic Therapy
- Functional Family Therapy
- Aggression Replacement Therapy
- Family group conferencing
- Domestic violence
- Program for Reshaping Adolescents Sexual Expression
- Individual therapy
- Victimization Counseling
- Mental health
- Substance related
- Education/ Workforce training
- Recreation Therapy
- Supervision/ monitoring

The RIOB allowed St. Clair County to use a baseline of 86 commitments, the number of Redeploy eligible juvenile commitments in 2004 rather than the average number of commitments to IDJJ for the 2001 – 2003 years as seen with the remaining three pilot sites. This was due to the dramatically increasing numbers of juvenile commitments over the more recent years. Therefore, the Oversight Board agreed to a more accurate and realistic baseline. In 2007, the Oversight Board and the St Clair County pilot site agreed to adjust their baseline to the 3-year average for 2003 - 2005 for purposes of calculating penalties and monitoring the minimum 25% reduction requirement.

Pilot Expansion

In FY2007, the Redeploy Illinois line item received an increase of $750,000 to expand the initiative. A Request For Proposals (RFP) was developed to solicit applications. The RFP was released on 9/1/06 and due back on 9/26/06. Two applications were reviewed and scored by RIOB members and staff. At the 10/16/06 RIOB meeting, results were discussed and the RIOB determined that Hunters Productions was not an eligible applicant and the decision was made to request additional eligibility information from the Cook County applicant, due back on 11/30/06. This addendum satisfied eligibility requirements; however, the RIOB wanted further clarifications and assurances on a few topics. The RIOB decided on 2/16/07 that Cook County would become the next Redeploy Illinois pilot site. On 3/13/07 IDHS issued a contract to Cook County for signature.

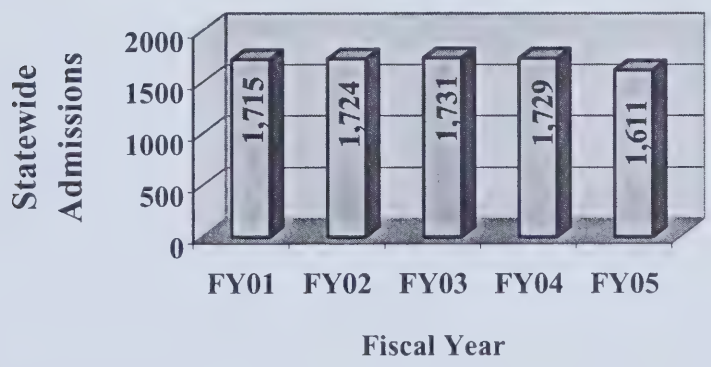
Upon receipt of the contract, Cook County expressed concerns about the reduction in the Redeploy Illinois line item in the Governor's proposed budget released on 3/7/07. As the RIOB and IDHS were unable to assure Cook County that full funding would be made available to the site in FY08, regardless of the appropriation, Cook County understandably did not sign the contract. The RIOB believes Cook County remains very interested in becoming the next Redeploy Illinois pilot site, should funding be restored.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

IDJJ Admissions

Implementation in two of the four Redeploy Illinois pilot sites began in January 2005 with the remaining two beginning implementation later that same year. From 2001 to 2004 there was a statewide average of 1,725 new court admissions of juveniles per year to IDJJ (Figure 1). During calendar year 2005 alone, there was a statewide decrease in new court admissions to IDJJ of 7% (118 youth). In the preceding four years there was never a variation of more than 16 admissions. Is this a direct result of the Redeploy Illinois initiative? The RIOB believes it is. According to IDJJ data for the four pilot sites, during their first year of implementation (2005), 93 fewer youth were admitted to IDJJ than in the corresponding baseline years of the pilot. The RIOB expects that this drop in admissions will hold as the second year of pilot data indicates that 133 fewer youth will have been admitted during the 2006 project period.

Figure 1 - New Admissions to IDJJ
FY 2001-2005



Source: 2005 Department Data, report found on the Illinois Department of Corrections website, Reports & Stats.

Detention Utilization

The four pilot sites implementing the Redeploy Illinois Initiative are focusing on reducing the number of confinement days within IDJJ. To this end, some of the pilot sites utilize a brief stay in detention while the determination is made as to the youth's eligibility and acceptance into the program. For this reason, the RIOB monitors detention data in these pilot sites to ensure that there is not a dramatic shift in confinement from IDJJ to county detention. During the first two years of Redeploy Illinois implementation, the pilot sites saw a collective average length of stay in detention of 12.25 days. This compares to the statewide two-year average of 19 days.

Cost Savings by Pilot Site

In State fiscal year 2005, according to IDJJ, the average cost for a 12-month juvenile commitment was $70,827. The average length of stay for a delinquency commitment was 8.8 months ($51,940). The average length of stay for a court evaluation commitment was 3.5 months ($20,658). In FY 2005, nine percent of the IDJJ juvenile population was incarcerated for a court evaluation. These data are utilized throughout the remainder of this section to calculate cost savings.

Cost savings resulting from Redeploy Illinois were estimated using the following methodology. The estimated number of youth that were "Redeployed" is the difference between the observed number of eligible commitments for a given year and the average annual number of youth sentenced to IDJJ during the baseline period for a given pilot site. The cost savings due to a decrease in commitments was estimated by determining the number of "Redeployed" youth who would have been committed for evaluation (.09 x redeployed youth) and those for a delinquency or full commitment (.91 x redeployed youth). The resulting figures were then applied to the estimated length of stay averages and associated costs calculated.

2nd Circuit - 2-Year Cost Savings to IDJJ = $1,375,489

The 2nd Circuit Redeploy Illinois pilot program operates on a calendar year. The average annual number of youth sentenced to IDJJ from 1/1/01 to 12/31/03 eligible for participation in Redeploy was 40.

Program Period	Eligible Commitments	Percent Reduction from Baseline (40)	Number Redeployed	Cost Savings to IDJJ
Year One 1/1/05 – 12/31/05	22	41%	18	$884,243
Year Two 1/1/06 – 12/31/06	30	25%	10	$491,246
2 Year Figures	**52 Youth Incarcerated**	**33% Average Reduction**	**28 Fewer Youth Incarcerated**	**$1,375,489 Cost Savings to IDJJ**

Macon County - 2-Year Cost Savings to IDJJ = $2,947,478

The Macon County Redeploy Illinois pilot program operates on a calendar year. The average annual number of youth sentenced to IDJJ from 1/1/01 to 12/31/03 eligible for participation in Redeploy was 51.

Program Period	Eligible Commitments	Percent Reduction from Baseline (51)	Number Redeployed	Cost Savings to IDJJ
Year One 1/1/05 – 12/31/05	30	41%	21	$1,031,617
Year Two 1/1/06 – 12/31/06	12	76%	39	$1,915,861
2 Year Figures	**42 Youth Incarcerated**	**59%Average Reduction**	**60 Fewer Youth Incarcerated**	**$2,947,478 Cost Savings to IDJJ**

Peoria County - 2-Year Cost Savings to IDJJ = $2,947,478

The Peoria County Redeploy Illinois pilot program operates on a fiscal year. The average annual number of youth sentenced to IDJJ from 7/1/01 to 6/30/04 eligible for participation in Redeploy was 78.

Program Period	Eligible Commitments	Percent Reduction from Baseline (78)	Number Redeployed	Cost Savings to IDJJ
Year One 7/1/05 – 6/30/06	48	39%	30	$1,473,739
Year Two 7/1/06 – 6/30/07*	48	39%	30	$1,473,739
2 Year Figures	**96 Youth Incarcerated**	**39%Average Reduction**	**60 Fewer Youth Incarcerated**	**$2,947,478 Cost Savings to IDJJ**

* Year two figures are estimated based on the first six months of commitment data (24).

St. Clair County - 2-Year Cost Savings to IDJJ = $3,831,721

The St. Clair County Redeploy Illinois pilot program operates on a fiscal year. The average annual number of youth sentenced to IDJJ from 7/1/01 to 6/30/04 eligible for participation in Redeploy was 86.

Program Period	Eligible Commitments	Percent Reduction from Baseline (86)	Number Redeployed	Cost Savings to IDJJ
Year One 7/1/05 – 6/30/06	62	28%	24	$1,178,991
Year Two 7/1/06 – 6/30/07*	32	63%	54	$2,652,730
2 Year Figures	**94 Youth Incarcerated**	**46%Average Reduction**	**78 Fewer Youth Incarcerated**	**$3,831,721 Cost Savings to IDJJ**

* Year two figures are estimated based on the first six months of commitment data (16).

2-Year Cost Savings to IDJJ

This table reflects compiled pilot site calculations from the preceding tables. From site start-up through the end of their second full year of implementation, compared to the calculated cost savings to IDJJ during that same time period.

Pilot Site	2-Year Number Reduction from Baseline	2-Year Cost Savings to IDJJ from Baseline
2nd Circuit	28	$1,375,489
Macon County	60	$2,947,478
Peoria County*	60	$2,947,478
St. Clair County*	78	$3,831,721
	226 Fewer Youth Incarcerated	**$11,102,166 Cost Savings to IDJJ**

* Year two figures are estimated based on the first six months of commitment data.

2-Year Cost Savings to the State of Illinois

This table reflects pilot site grant expenditures from site start-up through the end of their second full year of implementation, compared to the calculated cost savings to IDJJ during that same time period.

Pilot Site	2-Year Project Period State Grant Expenditures	2-Year Cost Savings to IDJJ from Baseline	2-Year Cost Savings to the State of Illinois from Baseline
2nd Circuit	$906,604	$1,375,489	$468,885
Macon County	$597,087	$2,947,478	$2,350,391
Peoria County*	$764,938	$2,947,478	$2,182,540
St. Clair County*	$862,794	$3,831,721	$2,968,927
	$3,131,423 Pilot Site Grant Expenditures	**$11,102,166 Cost Savings to IDJJ**	**$7,970,743 Cost Savings to the State**

* Year two figures are estimated based on the first six months of commitment data.

CASE STUDY

Rachael is a 13-year-old female on probation for car theft. She struggled to get along with her mother and sister at home, but family relationships were very strained. Rachael was also struggling at school. She was receiving services both in school and from a private psychiatrist for mental health issues. In an effort to help, the probation officer had also referred the family for group therapy. However, the family was seemingly overwhelmed by the general chaos, and the situation remained critical.

In an effort to reduce stress within the family, Rachael moved out of her mother's home and into her oldest sister's home, which allowed Rachael also to transfer to an alternate junior high school in the district. Rachael continued to have problems, however, and her behavior and poor attitude caused conflict with her sister. She eventually returned to her mother's home and finished out the school year, but due to ongoing probation violations, she was brought back before the court. This time, Rachael was referred to the Redeploy Illinois program.

Rachael first received a thorough psychological assessment, and an in-depth family assessment was performed. These tools indicated ongoing family conflict, poor communication, clinical depression and suspicion of drug use. Rachael and her family were linked with needed counseling and services to repair family relationships. At this very fragile time in their family life, Rachael's family home caught fire and was extensively damaged. Though family tensions inevitably increased for a time, the coordination of services established through Redeploy helped to stabilize the situation.

Rachael and her mother have now completed family therapy and their relationship has improved. Through mental health counseling and substance abuse treatment services, Rachael is now following her mother's rules and curfew, and is abiding by the terms of her probation. Redeploy Illinois has helped Rachael to build the skills and find the confidence to succeed. She has been able to use skills learned in Aggression Replacement Therapy to assist her in coping with problems that arise at school and home. Rachael completed the first semester of school at an alterative school and did so well that she was transferred back to her original school for the start of the second semester. Rachael reports at this time that she is looking forward to attending her old school again and believes she can succeed. She is following all of her probationary guidelines and has turned her life around.

EVALUATION

Independent evaluators were hired to conduct a process and preliminary impact evaluation utilizing an approach that was systematic and comprehensive with a variety of qualitative and quantitative data collection methods. The evaluations were designed to address the unique characteristics of the pilot sites through establishing key performance indicators and research questions for assessing the impact and implementation of the Redeploy Illinois program

The research team at Powered Performance, Ghenno Senbetta, Ph.D., and Darryl L. Jinkerson, Ph.D. evaluated the 2nd Judicial Circuit and Macon County Redeploy programs. The 2nd Judicial Circuit was evaluated for the time period of March 1 through December 31, 2005. The Macon County Redeploy program was evaluated for the time period of January 1 and October 31, 2005.

The research team at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, Gaylene S. Armstrong, Ph.D., Todd A. Armstrong, Ph.D., and Vince J. Webb, Ph.D., evaluated the St. Clair County Redeploy and the Peoria County Redeploy programs. The Peoria Redeploy program was evaluated for the time period of June of 2005 through March of 2006. The St. Clair program was evaluated for the time period of January 1 through Oct. 31, 2005

The evaluation reports describe in detail the developmental processes that took place within each site as well as an in-depth description of each initiative. The data and process analysis conducted in each site indicated that all were on-track to meet the goals set forth in the statute, implementing community-based sanctions, treatment alternatives, and services for juveniles who would have otherwise been committed to IDJJ, while projecting that each would successfully meet the minimum 25% reduction requirement. Additionally, the program costs were dramatically lower per juvenile than the cost of committing juveniles to IDJJ.

To view these evaluation reports, please visit the web site for the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority at www.ICJIA.state.il.us.

CONCLUSION

In the first two years of implementation, the Redeploy Illinois pilot sites, on average, reduced commitments to the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice (IDJJ) by 44% within their communities, or 226 fewer youth. Thus, for every one million dollars spent by Redeploy Illinois Pilot sites, IDJJ has seen a decrease of $3.55 million in costs to incarcerate juveniles. This equates to an $11 million dollar 2-year cost savings to IDJJ. Although the RIOB understands that this cost savings to IDJJ does not represent an actual dollar for dollar decrease in IDJJ direct costs, it does stand to reason that if these reductions are maintained over time, that IDJJ would be able to begin restructuring and downsizing.

2005 represents the first year of Redeploy Illinois implementation in the four pilot sites. Pilot site commitment data indicated that 93 fewer youth were sentenced to IDJJ than in baseline years. In 2005, IDJJ saw a 7% (118 youth) statewide decrease in new admissions. A drop of this size has not been seen in recent years. The RIOB expects that this drop in admissions will continue to hold as the second year of pilot data indicates that 133 fewer youth will have been committed during the 2006 project period.

If these reductions are to be maintained, it will be critical for the Legislature and this initiative to continue to direct funding toward the continuum of services being developed in these pilot sites.

The RIOB recommends that this pilot be continued and expanded to more communities throughout the State. At a minimum, the RIOB would like to request an increase in the annual appropriation of $750,000 to give them the ability to expand the initiative into Cook County.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Research suggests that non-violent youth offenders are less likely to be involved in subsequent delinquent behavior if they remain in their home communities and receive appropriate services that address their underlying needs. Community-based services for juvenile offenders are generally less costly and more effective in returning youth to productive citizenship than institutional care in correctional facilities.

In 2005, Redeploy Illinois began four pilot programs with a goal of reducing juvenile commitments by 25 percent. These sites were provided with financial support to deliver community-based services to youth in their home communities who might otherwise have been sent to the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice (IDJJ).

In its first three years of providing services, Redeploy Illinois has demonstrated success. Approximately, 400 youth residing in the pilot site communities were diverted from commitment to the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice. Compared to the number of commitments occurring in the pilot sites prior to Redeploy Illinois, the reported diversions represented a 51 percent reduction in commitments. Although cost was examined in this report, the most significant success of Redeploy is the mobilization of communities to provide services to youth offenders so that they may thrive and become productive citizens.

INTRODUCTION

Every year, hundreds of Illinois teenagers enter the juvenile justice system by engaging in risk-taking and/or illegal behavior. The effect of incarceration on the lives of these youth is devastating and the cost to the State is enormous. With the passage of Redeploy Illinois, the Illinois General Assembly and Governor Blagojevich set Illinois on a new course of action in meeting the needs of delinquent youth.

In State Fiscal Year 2005, the per capita cost to Illinois tax payers for incarcerating a single juvenile offender in a correctional institution was $70,827 per year. The juvenile recidivism rate in Illinois was 48 percent. This rate under-reports the actual recidivism of youth in that it only counts those juveniles that return to a juvenile institution within three years of release; the number of these youth that return to the criminal justice system is unknown.

While the Redeploy Illinois Oversight Board (RIOB) expects the new Department of Juvenile Justice to have a significant impact on the recidivism rate of incarcerated youth, it is also convinced that many youth are better served in their home counties rather than in juvenile correctional institutions. Research suggests that non-violent youth offenders are less likely to be involved in subsequent delinquent behavior if they remain in their home communities and receive appropriate services that address their underlying needs. Community-based services for juvenile offenders are less costly and more effective than institutional care in correctional facilities. However, a lack of local programs and services plays a significant role in a court's decision to commit a youth to the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice (IDJJ). Further, a

commitment to IDJJ is paid by the State; local jurisdictions incur no cost, a fact that encourages communities to relinquish youth to incarceration rather than invest community resources.

Enter Redeploy Illinois. The Redeploy Illinois pilot program gives counties financial support to provide community services to youth who might otherwise have been sent to IDJJ. In return, the pilot sites commit to reducing juvenile commitments. The funds fill gaps in local programming and services available for delinquent youth, allowing counties to reduce their reliance on IDJJ. As a result, youth are being given opportunities to succeed, commitments to IDJJ are being reduced, and millions of dollars in costs to the state are being avoided.

The following report provides an overview of Redeploy Illinois as required in P.A. 94-1032. The report includes a description of initiative pilot site activities, performance, expansion efforts, evaluation findings and promotional activities.

PILOT-SITE ACTIVITIES

The Redeploy Illinois target population is youth facing a possible sentence to IDJJ for an offense other than Murder or a Class X Forcible Felony. Redeploy Illinois is the last resort for these youth.

Local jurisdictions that participate as a Redeploy Illinois pilot site develop plans for community-based treatments for juvenile offenders that protect their communities, promote accountability for the harm caused their victims and communities, and equip youth with the necessary competencies to live responsibly and productively.

There are four Redeploy Illinois pilot sites:

- Macon County
- Peoria County
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- 2nd Judicial Circuit *(Comprised of 12 rural counties in southeastern Illinois: Crawford, Edwards, Franklin, Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Jefferson, Lawrence, Richland, Wabash, Wayne and White.)*

Macon

The Redeploy Illinois pilot program, Community ACCESS (Alternative Collaborative Change Education Support Success), is designed to offer individualized services to juvenile participants based on their specific risk factors and needs. The Macon County program utilizes the Youth Assessment Screening Instrument (YASI), a tool that gathers information to determine appropriate services for participants. Other assessment tools examine mental health and substance abuse issues. The program employs local community restorative boards made up of small groups of citizens who are prepared by intensive training to conduct face-to-face meetings with offenders and develop agreements with them. The boards allow community members to meet with juveniles and their families, both to help restore community relationships and to hold the juveniles accountable for harm caused by their actions.

Peoria

The Peoria County Redeploy Illinois program is a collaborative partnership between Peoria County Court Services and Children's Home Association of Illinois (CHAIL). Redeploy Illinois participants are referred from the Juvenile Court Judge as well as identified by probation staff from their existing caseloads. In addition, participant parents must agree to the Redeploy Illinois

program assignment. Youth that have been referred into the Redeploy Illinois program in need of a court evaluation are placed in a residential setting. During a stabilization period, they receive an evaluation and assessment. They are then transitioned into the program group. Youth who need more intense mental health treatment receive therapy. A staff member from the CHAIL conducts a thorough assessment on each youth participating in the program to obtain the information that will assist in developing an individualized service plan for the youth and his/her family. The staff member then collaborates with Peoria County probation staff that work directly with delinquent youth and their families to provide the identified services or link them to resources within the community.

St. Clair

The St. Clair County Youth Coalition (SCCYC), consisting of over 100 community stakeholders and youth service providers, oversees the pilot initiative. The Children's Home and Aid Society of Illinois (CHASI), a local social service agency, provides program delivery and implementation. Other agencies such as the Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House, Kids Hope United, and Cahokia Park United Methodist Church offer services. A court liaison is provided to assist youth and their families during court proceedings and to make referrals to services. All referred youth to the St. Clair Redeploy Illinois program are required to undergo an assessment period. During this period, youth are generally remanded to custody in the St. Clair County Detention Center. Each youth is matched with a CHASI caseworker within 24-hours, wherein the caseworker completes the assessment process through an examination of participants' school, mental health, social, and family history. This information is gathered from schools, hospitals, family members, and other documentation such as YASI scores. In order to set goals for the youth and family, each youth receives a case plan provided by CHASI. After the assessment and case plan are submitted to the judge, a determination is made whether or not to accept the youth into the Redeploy Program.

2nd Circuit

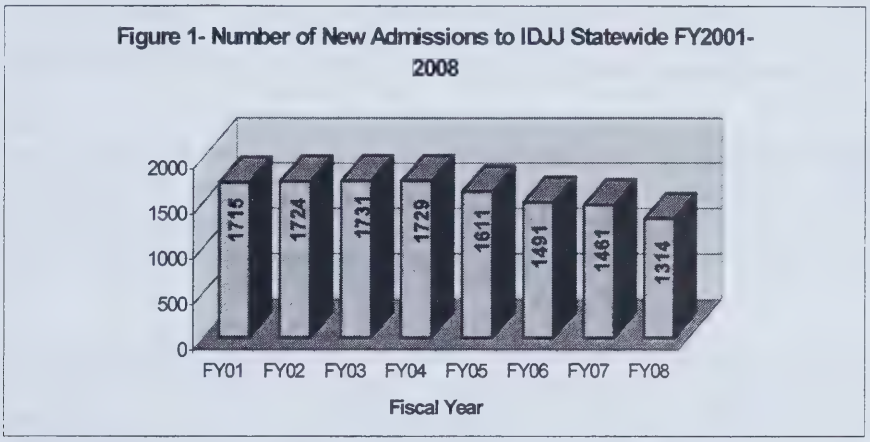
The 2nd Circuit Juvenile Justice Council acts as a liaison between Redeploy Illinois and county stakeholders such as: state's attorney's, judges, public defenders, detention, social service agencies, educators, law enforcement, and probation and court services. Information is disseminated by members of the council to key stakeholders in their community. The goal of the 2nd Judicial Circuit Redeploy Illinois program is to utilize individualized and evidence-based practices to address the needs of medium- and high-risk juvenile offenders. Probation officers and community service providers monitor and provide services to juveniles selected for this program. Specific needs are determined on a case-by-case basis. Service providers for the initiative are selected based on several standards, including the provider's use of the Blueprint Evidence Based Practices programming, the service provider's ability to work with the targeted juvenile population in the geographical locations, and the ability to provide the needed services.

PERFORMANCE

The performance of Redeploy Illinois overall and by pilot site is examined in the following section. Several key measures are presented including statewide admissions to IDJJ, detention utilization, and a cost analysis. Besides statistics and calculations, the analysis spotlights the programming of a successful pilot and the benefit of Redeploy in a case study.

IDJJ Admissions

The average of new admissions of juveniles per year from Fiscal Year 2001 through 2004 was 1,725. In FY2005, the number of new admissions dropped to 1,611. New admissions continued to drop and by Fiscal Year 2008 the number was 1,314. The average admissions for this time period was 1,469, a 15 percent decrease from the average per year admissions in FY2001-FY2004 (See Figure 1). Redeploy Illinois began in 2005.



Source: Illinois Department of Corrections website, Reports & Stats., 2008

The RIOB believes that these statistics demonstrate that Redeploy Illinois has played a significant and obvious role in this decrease. However, Redeploy has not been the only factor. Multiple Juvenile Justice Reform initiatives, including Redeploy, have been working to create a philosophical shift in the juvenile justice system. The work of these initiatives is beginning to effect real change in local communities.

Detention Utilization in the Pilot Sites

Reducing reliance on the Department of Juvenile Justice should not increase the use of local secure detention placements. It is understood that Illinois currently has excess detention bed capacity. Simply placing a juvenile in local secure detention is not an acceptable intervention. The data presented in Figures 2 and 3 indicate that Redeploy Illinois is not using detention as an alternative to diverting youth from commitment. In fact, from 2002 to 2007, the number of new detainees remained fairly stable with the largest decrease occurring in 2007 (Juvenile Monitoring Information System, Preliminary Data). Another measure, average length of stay (ALOS) in detention, also remained stable during this time period with the exception of a slight increase reported in 2007. Despite the increase observed in 2007, the ALOS for the Redeploy pilot-sites remained below that reported for the state, 20 days.

Figure 2

Detention Utilization - New Detainees 2002 - 2007						
Redeploy Site	**2002**	**2003**	**2004**	**2005**	**2006**	**2007**
2nd Circuit	252	212	299	335	332	313
Macon County	228	195	168	175	192	167
Peoria County	804	821	876	849	806	769
St. Clair County	815	747	702	623	787	604
Total New Detainees	**2,099**	**1,975**	**2,045**	**1,982**	**2,117**	**1,853**

Figure 3

Detention Utilization - Average Length of Stay 2002 - 2007						
Redeploy Site	**2002**	**2003**	**2004**	**2005**	**2006**	**2007**
2nd Circuit	9	8	8	9	11	12
Macon County	12	12	10	8	8	14
Peoria County	17	14	13	15	17	19
St. Clair County	10	11	14	17	10	10

Cost Analysis

The per capita cost for a 12-month juvenile commitment was $70,827 in Fiscal Year 2005 (latest data available-IDJJ). The average length of stay for a delinquency commitment was 8.8 months ($51,940). The average length of stay for a court evaluation commitment was 3.5 months ($20,658). In FY 2005, nine percent of the IDJJ juvenile population was incarcerated for a court evaluation.

The methodology for calculating the cost avoidance of Redeploy involved several steps.

1) Compare the baseline eligible commitment number to the observed number of eligible commitments for a given year. The baseline is the average number of eligible commitments reported for a pilot-site from 2001 to and including 2003, except for St. Clair County for which two baselines are used. Because St. Clair County experienced a 150 percent increase in eligible commitments from 2001 to 2004, the Redeploy Illinois Oversight Board (RIOB) allowed St. Clair County to use the 2004 number of eligible commitments as its baseline (86 commitments). In 2007, the RIOB recommended, and the county agreed, to use the average number of eligible commitments for 2003-2005 (74 commitments). The difference between the baseline and eligible commitments for a given year are considered to be youth who have been diverted from detention or Redeployed.
2) Determine among Redeployed youth the number that would have been committed for evaluation and full commitment. According to IDJJ (2005), nine percent of new admissions are for a court evaluation. Therefore, the factors of .09 and .91 were applied to the number of Redeployed youth.
3) Apply the costs associated with commitment to the number of Redeployed youth.

2nd Circuit

Since January 2005, the 2nd Circuit has redeployed 48 youth. The cost avoidance of diverting these youth from a court evaluation or full-commitment was $2.3 million. Figure 4 presents the performance of the 2nd Circuit.

Figure 4

Program Period	Eligible Commitments	Percent Reduction from Baseline	Number Redeployed	Cost Avoidance
Year One 1/1/05 – 12/31/05	22	45%	18	$884,243
Year Two 1/1/06 – 12/31/06	30	25%	10	$491,246
Year Three 1/1/07 – 12/31/07	20	41%	20	$976,236
3 Year Figures	**72 Youth Incarcerated**	**40%**	**48 Fewer Youth Incarcerated**	**$2,351,725**

Note: Baseline number of eligible commitments = 40

Macon County

Since January 2005, Macon County has redeployed 93 youth. The cost avoidance of diverting these youth from a court evaluation or full-commitment was $4.6 million. Figure 5 presents the performance of Macon County.

Figure 5

Program Period	Eligible Commitments	Percent Reduction from Baseline	Number Redeployed	Cost Avoidance
Year One 1/1/05 – 12/31/05	30	41%	21	$1,031,617
Year Two 1/1/06 – 12/31/06	12	76%	39	$1,915,861
Year Three 1/1/07 – 12/31/07	18	65%	33	$1,620,174
3 Year Figures	**60 Youth Incarcerated**	**61%**	**93 Fewer Youth Incarcerated**	**$4,567,652**

Note: Baseline number of eligible commitments = 51

Peoria County

Since July 2005, Peoria County has redeployed 88 youth. The cost avoidance of diverting these youth from a court evaluation or full commitment was $4.3 million. Figure 6 presents the performance of Peoria County.

Figure 6

Program Period	Eligible Commitments	Percent Reduction from Baseline	Number Redeployed	Cost Avoidance
Year One 7/1/05 – 6/30/06	48	39%	30	$1,473,739
Year Two 7/1/06 – 6/30/07	49	37%	29	$1,412,414
Year Three 7/1/07 – 6/31/08	49	37%	29	$1,412,414
3 Year Figures	**145 Youth Incarcerated**	**38%**	**88 Fewer Youth Incarcerated**	**$4,298,567**

Note: Baseline number of eligible commitments = 78

St. Clair County

Since July 2005, St. Clair County redeployed 153 youth. The cost avoidance of diverting these youth from a court evaluation or full commitment was $7.5 million. Figure 7 presents the performance of St. Clair County.

Figure 7

Program Period	Eligible Commitments	Percent Reduction from Baseline	Number Redeployed	Cost Avoidance
Year One 7/1/05 – 6/30/06	62	28%	24	$1,178,991
Year Two 7/1/06 – 6/30/07	20	77%	66	$3,240,348
Year Three 7/1/07 – 6/31/08	11	85%	63	$3,094,851
3 Year Figures	**93 Youth Incarcerated**		**153 Fewer Youth Incarcerated**	**$7,514,190**

Note: Baseline for years one and two = 86 and for year three = 74

Initiative-wide

Since its inception, Redeploy Illinois succeeded in diverting 382 young people from commitment to the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice. The cost avoidance of the initiative to the State of Illinois is $18.7 million. Figure 8 presents performance for the entire initiative.

Figure 8

Pilot Site	3 Year Number Reduction from Baseline	3-Year Cost Avoidance
2nd Circuit	48	$2,351,725
Macon County	93	$4,567,652
Peoria County	88	$4,298,567
St. Clair County	153	$7,514,190
	382 Fewer Youth Incarcerated	**$18,732,134**

Program expenditures for this time period totaled $4,917,000. Compared to the costs that were avoided, it is estimated that for every dollar spent on Redeploy, there is a potential savings of $4.

Limitations of the Analysis

The analysis presented above is predicated on cost of incarceration as calculated by IDJJ. The cost figures are a per capita calculation; it is derived by dividing the entire budget of IDJJ by the number of youth incarcerated during Fiscal Year 2005. Because the per capita calculation includes fixed costs, the estimate may be inflated. Another limitation of using per capita calculations is that as the population of youth decreases, the cost per youth increases.

An additional limitation concerns the significance of cost avoidance. The analysis reports that with the observed reduction in commitments there was a sizeable cost avoidance. The choice of term, "cost avoidance" was intentional as actual savings were not realized by this reduction in commitments.

Program Spotlight

In 2004, St. Clair County sent 86 Redeploy eligible youth to the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice (IDJJ). Since Redeploy, the number of eligible youth entering IDJJ dropped to 11. This represents an 87 percent decrease in commitments. St. Clair County has transformed their Juvenile Court System and service delivery to high-risk youthful offenders.

St. Clair County did not initially apply for the Redeploy Illinois Grant for three primary reasons: 1) an exponential increase in commitments for each of the previous four years (150% from 2001 to 2004); 2) not all of the local juvenile justice system players were fully on board with the concept; and 3) the Redeploy Illinois grant carried a substantial penalty if reductions were not met. When the Redeploy grant opportunity was reissued in 2005, strong encouragement by the Juvenile Judge, Public Defender and community stakeholders allayed the county's concerns.

Since beginning in April 2005, St. Clair County Redeploy has existed as a partnership between court, probation, and community service providers. The Juvenile Judge and Public Defender's offices fully support the Redeploy Illinois Program providing expertise in juvenile law and court procedures. Each of the community stakeholders also lend their unique perspectives to the St. Clair Youth Coalition Juvenile Justice Committee that serves as the governance body for Redeploy Illinois. Supporting these efforts and overseeing the process has been the St. Clair County Youth Coalition. While St. Clair County Mental Health Board serves as the fiscal agent for the program as well as the contract monitor, Children's Home and Aid is the lead agency employing three Redeploy Case Managers and managing multiple subcontracts. Lessie Bates

Davis Neighborhood House is subcontracted to provide the Court and Community Liaison for the Redeploy Illinois Program, and probation offers knowledge in corrections strategies and a probation officer designated to serve all youth accepted into Redeploy Illinois intensive case management. Kids Hope United (KHU) is subcontracted to provide one evidence-based program Multisystemic Therapy (MST) while another evidenced based program, Family Functional Therapy is available to St. Clair County youth through other KHU contracts. Redeploy uses both counseling programs to effect change in the family systems of Redeploy youth. Additionally Redeploy youth are exposed to Washington Aggression Interruption Training that uses cognitive behavioral skill development to teach youth the steps to better anger mamanagement.

Core services for youth in Redeploy include assessment and subsequent service development, e.g. involvement in evidence based programming; intensive case management; on-call services to youth and their families for crisis stabilization; court/school/community advocacy; and flex funding that enables youth to participate in positive recreational activities and assists in the purchase of additional programming as needed. The Court and Community Liaison serves as a bridge between the court, probation and the Redeploy staff. This position provides the first level of services and entails screening youth present at a first appearance in court for appropriate interventions. When needs are identified, families are given referral information for the appropriate resources, and the youth's needs are communicated to the Court and probation. The Liaison also staffs the Coalition's Clinical Committee, whose primary goal is to assist St. Clair County families in finding and coordinating services for high-risk youth.

Since its inception, St. Clair County Redeploy has served 455 youth and their families through the Court/Community Liaison position with 220 community referrals being made on their behalf. Ninety-three youth have been assessed for Intensive Case Management with ongoing services provided to 69. Redeploy has been able to track youth up to a year after program closure. Redeploy tracks all new juvenile delinquency adjudications, and adult criminal felony and misdemeanor convictions. Status offenses are not included. Recidivism for youth is considered low with only 16 percent committing a new crime within the first year after program closure. This success is attributed to strong community and provider involvement and a valued belief that youth can thrive within their family and community when they are involved in appropriate services to address their needs.

Case Study

Artravis began the Redeploy Illinois program with several strikes against him at age 13. He was the youngest youth ever referred to the program, yet he had one of the most extensive criminal histories including eight counts of residential burglary, four counts of burglary, one count of arson, two counts of theft, two counts of criminal damage to property, and one count of battery. Artravis was failing nearly every class at school and had severe behavior problems there as well. He also lives with his single mother who is low functioning and struggles to parent Artravis in an appropriate manner. In addition, Artravis had very little connection to his community.

Because Artravis' mother has struggled to provide appropriate supervision, Artravis was placed on the Electronic Leg Monitor until his mother could improve in this area. In order to increase her parenting skills, the family was referred to Multisystemic Therapy (MST), an intensive home-based family therapy program that consists of up to three sessions each week. The family has been meeting with their MST therapist as scheduled and is actively participating in sessions. Artravis' mother acknowledges the benefit of having the added assistance and feels that the MST program has been very beneficial.

While services were put into place to improve Artravis' home life, school required a great deal of attention as well. Artravis willingly participated in a psychiatric evaluation and was diagnosed with and received medication for ADHD. Since that time, Artravis' grades have gone from failing to honor roll. His behavior has also taken a drastic turn for the better, and he has had no suspensions or detentions. School staff is extremely pleased with Artravis' progress and are even discussing the possibility of mainstreaming him into regular education classes. The positive feedback that Artravis has received from school staff has only helped to encourage his continued positive behavior. Artravis has even joined the school band and has tried out for the school basketball team.

While many people were doubtful of Artravis' ability to be successful in the Redeploy Illinois program, his hard work and motivation are steadily proving otherwise. Artravis has worked hard to change his life and is enjoying the benefits of his success. While there is still much work to do, Artravis has proven that every youth has potential to succeed.

PILOT-SITE EXPANSION

As a result of the early progress demonstrated by the Redeploy Illinois initiative, the Governor and General Assembly appropriated new dollars to the initiative in each of the last two state fiscal years. The following sections: Cook County; Planning Grants; and New Pilot Sites, provide a description of the recent expansion efforts of the RIOB.

Cook County

In the Fall of 2007, the RIOB issued a Request For Proposals (RFP). Cook County was the only successful applicant. Upon receipt of the contract, Cook County expressed concerns about the reduction in the Redeploy Illinois line item in the Governor's proposed budget released on March 7, 2007. As the RIOB and IDHS were unable to assure Cook County that full funding would be available in FY08, Cook County understandably did not sign the contract. Cook County remained very interested in becoming the next Redeploy Illinois pilot site, and as a result, in December 2007 (FY08), after submitting a revised application, the RIOB decided to fund Cook County.

In December 2007 Cook County officially became a Redeploy pilot-site. The county adopted the Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care Program as its chief intervention, an evidence-based program that had demonstrated great success in the State of Oregon. Youth aged 13 to 17 who were adjudicated for drug, auto theft or bring back orders and who resided in the Garfield Park Community were the target population. The Garfield Park Community included minors who were living in the east and west Garfield Park Community Areas (26 and 27) that corresponded to Chicago's 11th police district and Court Calendar 57.

For a number of reasons, including required out of state travel for training, recruitment of foster homes, low numbers of referrals of appropriate youth to the program, and an inability to meet the targeted number of youth being placed in the program thereby not reducing the targeted number of youth committed to DJJ, in October of 2008 Cook County requested a suspension of their program. Cook County expressed strong support for the Redeploy Illinois philosophy and has requested the RIOB provide them an opportunity to explore, through planning and capacity building funding, the opportunity to devise additional approaches to implementing a Redeploy Illinois program in Cook County. The RIOB has agreed with Cook County's request.

Planning Grants
In FY 2008, the RIOB offered planning grants of up to $10,000 for individual counties or groups of counties to explore Redeploy Illinois in their jurisdictions.

The planning grant opportunity was offered to 32 counties that were identified as committing an average of 10 or more youth to IDJJ per year over a three-year period (2005-2007). The grants were for April 1st, 2008 through June 30th, 2008. Each county that accepted the grant was required to attend three full day training sessions, submit an expenditure documentation form and a final report detailing the county's planning activities and the compiled results of the planning grant process. Twelve applicants consisting of 14 counties applied for and received funding under the Planning Grant opportunity. The planning grant sites agreed to analyze data on commitments from their individual counties, review current services offered in their communities, determine what additional services were needed, explore strategies for service delivery, review populations of youth that were committed to IDJJ from their counties, analyze local governance of juvenile justice issues, establish estimated costs for alternative programs to DJJ for delinquent youth and gauge the community's readiness for a Redeploy Illinois program.

Three planning grant meetings were held in Bloomington. Representatives of the four original Redeploy Illinois Pilot sites generously volunteered to serve as presenters at the meetings and mentors to juvenile justice personnel from the planning grant sites. Feedback from the participating counties indicated that the Planning Grant process was extremely successful.

New Pilot Sites
In FY2009, Redeploy received additional funding allowing the RIOB to expand the initiative. The RIOB decided to open the competitive process to only those counties that had participated in the planning grant opportunity. Six applications were received covering eight counties. Of the six applicants, the RIOB approved five for funding: Kankakee County, Lee County, Madison County, McLean County, and the 4th Circuit (Montgomery, Christian, and Marion Counties). These new sites are expected to be funded by January 2009 and after an approximate three month start up period begin service delivery in the spring of 2009.

EVALUATION

The RIOB developed and implemented a Redeploy Illinois Assessment during Fiscal Year 2008. The purpose of the assessment was to provide feedback to the RIOB on the overall implementation experience of Redeploy Illinois pilot sites at the end of the initial three-year funding period for the sites and to inform any subsequent funding decisions made by the RIOB. The assessment examined the following areas:

- Program experiences not documented by the initial evaluations;
- Program milestones and accomplishments;
- Key issues regarding collaboration;
- Case study information;
- Organizational and operational information;
- Data collection and self-assessment capabilities; and
- Lessons learned.

Several RIOB members and staff conducted the assessment in extensive two-day meetings held in St. Clair, Peoria and Macon Counties, as well as in the Second Circuit. The assessment team

met with Redeploy Illinois stakeholders including judges, state's attorneys, public defenders, probation staff, service providers, community members, youth and parents in the Redeploy Illinois program. The results of the assessments were recommendations by the assessment team for continued funding of the original four pilot sites with certain recommendations for the sites to consider in future operations. Examples of these recommendations include:

- Recruit additional stakeholders, particularly representatives of schools and the faith community;
- Consolidate the governance structure of the Redeploy Illinois program with another existing group to provide direction, governance, and supervision;
- Adopt a protocol for the review of the outcomes of Redeploy youth; and
- Expand psychological assessments to include educational evaluations for possible use in advocating for appropriate educational programs for Redeploy youth.

The RIOB considered the site recommendations submitted by the assessment team and approved the recommendations.

Letters outlining the recommendations with dates for responding to the recommendations are in the process of being sent out to the sites. Follow up review of the responses to the recommendations from the sites will be completed by the RIOB in the coming months. The assessment team was very impressed with the accomplishments of the sites over the last three years. Strong working collaborations have been established in the sites.

PROMOTING REDEPLOY

The RIOB is committed to inform others about the benefits of Redeploy Illinois. Members and staff have conducted numerous presentations on the Redeploy Illinois program at various juvenile justice-related events. These included presentations at two national conferences and three state conferences (Michigan, New York, Washington, DC), as well multiple Illinois statewide conferences and events.

In addition, the Redeploy initiative was a lead partner in bringing together a first of its kind event, the 1st Annual Collaborative Juvenile Justice Conference: "Connecting the Pathways". This conference brought together leaders from the five statewide juvenile justice reform efforts: Redeploy Illinois, Disproportionate Minority Contact, Illinois Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative, Illinois Balanced and Restorative Justice Initiative, and Models for Change. The partnership hosted almost 500 registered participants at the conference. The four-day event offered seven keynote speakers, all leaders in their respective fields, approximately 50 breakout session topics, as well as two receptions. Among others the event attracted judges, state's attorneys, public defenders, law enforcement, probation and court services personnel, social service providers, state agency representatives as well as state legislators and media. The newly formed "Pathways Partnership" continues to meet on a regular basis and works to provide follow-up technical assistance to those communities that attended the conference.

CONCLUSION

In its first three years of providing services, Redeploy Illinois has demonstrated success. Approximately, 400 youth residing in the pilot site communities were diverted from commitment to the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice. Compared to the number of commitments occurring in the pilot sites prior to Redeploy Illinois, the reported diversions represented a 51 percent reduction in commitments. Had these youth been committed, it is estimated that the cost avoidance to the state of Illinois could have totaled almost $19 million. An analysis of site expenditures to the potential cost avoidance suggests that for every dollar spent by Redeploy Illinois sites, the State saves four.

Additional cost avoidance may be realized by the effect of Redeploy on recidivism. St. Clair County reported a recidivism rate of 16 percent; the latest state rate reported for juveniles is 48 percent. Calculating the cost avoidance due to a drop in recidivism based on St. Clair County's experience is premature. More data and experience from other sites are needed to confirm the effectiveness of Redeploy on recidivism.

Although cost is an important measure of success, especially for a government-supported program, it is secondary to the initiative's effect on the lives of troubled youth. The statistics presented in the report regarding decreased commitments and recidivism suggests that youth offenders are being diverted from further involvement in the juvenile justice system. Redeploy Illinois has been successful in mobilizing communities to direct resources to youth offenders who otherwise would have been detained or worse, incarcerated. With the advent of Redeploy Illinois, many more youth offenders now have the opportunity to thrive and become productive citizens.

Maintaining and expanding these successes will require continued investment in Redeploy Illinois. The RIOB recommends that the Governor and General Assembly continue to direct funding to the initiative to enable expansion from the pilot sites to the entire state.